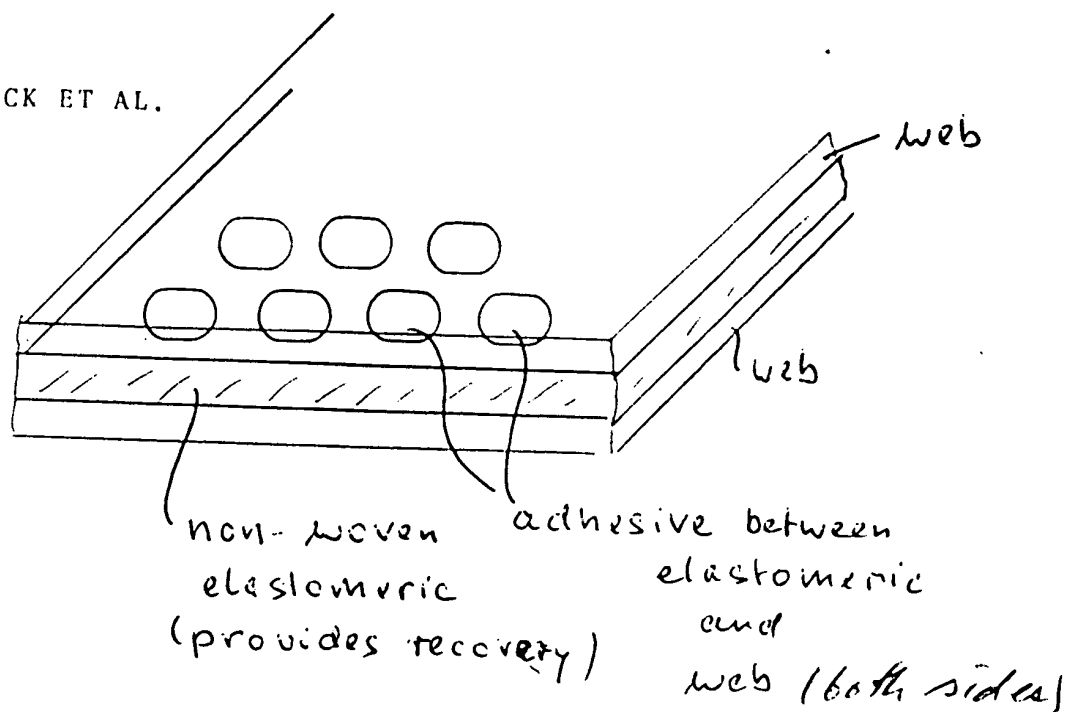


latticework configuration. The elastic strands cause the latticework configuration, and thus the entire web, to recover after stretching. This allows, for example, a non-woven fabric, which may otherwise be inelastic, to be stretched to a certain degree and then to recover its original shape.

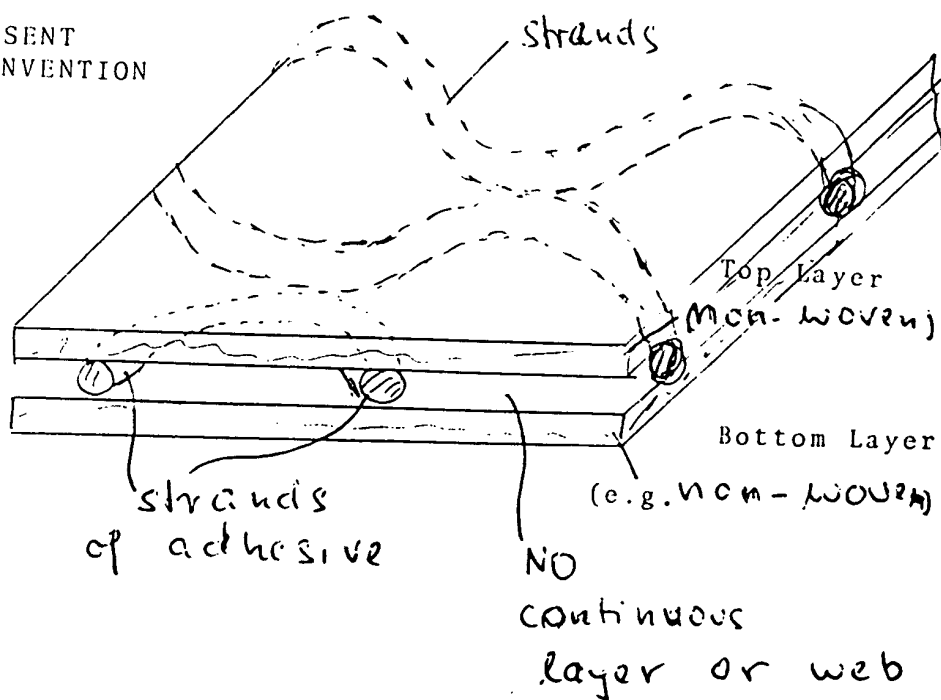
The U.S. Patent No. 5,681,645 to Strack et al. discloses a laminate comprising two outer webs of knit, woven or scrim material and an inner web of non-woven elastic material between them. Unlike the inner layer of the present invention, this non-woven elastomeric web does not form a latticework configuration nor is it formed of an adhesive. Additional adhesive material must be applied between the surfaces of the inner web and the facing surfaces of both outer webs.

Set forth below is an illustration of the Strack et al. configuration in juxtaposition to the configuration of the present invention. As they say, a "picture is worth a thousand words":

STRACK ET AL.



PRESENT INVENTION



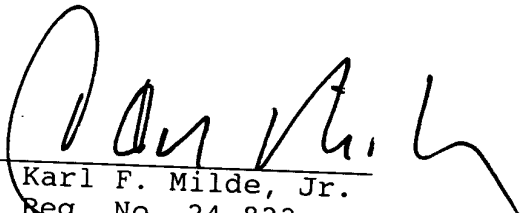
The strands themselves are formed of an elastic thermoplastic which adheres to the outer layers.

It is believed that independent claims 1 and 20 now clearly distinguish patentably over the structure disclosed by Strack et al. If the Examiner disagrees, he is invited to telephone the undersigned counsel to discuss an amendment to these base claims.

Accordingly, this application is believed to be in condition for immediate allowance. A formal Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

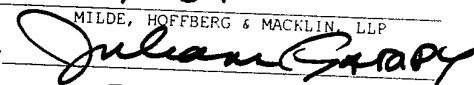
By


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